GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3293
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PROMOTION OF SPORTS IN RURAL AREAS
Mediyam Dr. Babu Rao;Rana Shri Kashi Ram;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no national infrastructure to promote rural sports in the country as a result of which the players in the rural areas do not get opportunities to enhance their sports talent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by the Government to promote rural sports during the last three years alongwith the State-wise details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a)Yes, Sir. There is a serious shortage of sports infrastructure at the grassroots level, thus depriving vast sections of the youth, particularly in the rural areas of access to organized games and sports facilities and activities.

(b)Sports is a State subject and the primary responsibility for creating sports infrastructure at the grass-roots levels vests in respective State Governments. The Government of India had been supplementing the efforts of the State Government through its schemes of `Creation of Sports Infrastructure`, `Grants to Rural Schools for Purchase of Sports Equipments and Development of Playground`, `Rural Sports Programme` and `Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools`. However, these schemes have been transferred to the State Sector with effect from 01.04.2005. But as for the decision of the Planning Commission, funds are being provided for sanctioned proposals till the end of the Xth Plan.

In recognition of this situation, and the globally accepted role of sports and games in the healthy development of youth, and in pursuance of the basic policy objective of broad-basing sports and developing a sports culture in the country, the Ministry is considering the launch of a Scheme titled `Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan` (PKYA). The objective of the Scheme is to provide capital and recurring grants for the development/improvement of basic infrastructure at the village and block levels, provision of support for sports equipments and organization of competitive and non-competitive sports events and activities at the grass-roots level. The Scheme is proposed to be implemented by bringing in synergy and convergence, between, and using the resources of various schemes of the Central Government and State Governments, as also of the Panchayat Raj Institutions, and integrating the sports activities under the Scheme with the higher level competition structure, talent spotting and professional training for identified talent sportspersons. In the process, it is proposed that the number of talented sportspersons under training would significantly increase from the present level of around 13000 to 50,000 by the end of the XI Plan.

(c)A list indicating the details of financial assistance released to States/UTs under the schemes i.e. Creation of Sports Infrastructure, Grants to Rural Schools for purchase of Sports Equipment & Development of Playground and Rural Sports Programme during the last three years is at Annex-I.